Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 COME-00 DLOS-09 CG-00 DOTE-00 L-03 SS-15 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 EB-08 CA-01 H-01 INRE-00 NSCE-00 /080 R

DRAFTED BY OES/OFA/FA:BSHALLMAN:EEB APPROVED BY OES/OFA/FA:LLSNEAD EZ/ANP-MR. HURWITZ (SUBS) OES/OFA/OA:MBUSBY

-----127061 250238Z /75

O R 242258Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL AUCKLAND
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
CINCPAC HONOLULU
GOV AMSAMOA PAGO PAGO POUCH

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:EFIS, PLOS, NZ, US

SUBJECT:US TUNA VESSEL FISHING WITHIN NZ EEZ

REF: WELLINGTON 1503

1. DEPT HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH STARKIST FOODS, WHICH IS OWNER OF TUNA SEINER "VOYAGEUR." INITIAL REACTION OF STARKIST REP WAS THAT COMPANY WAS ANXIOUS TO AVOID CONFRONTATION AND THAT EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO WORK OUT SOME CONFIDENTIAL

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AMICABLE SOLUTION. STARKIST REP HAD NOT, HOWEVER, CONSULTED WITH FRANK GARGAS WHO IS CAPTAIN AND PART-OWNER OF "VOYAGEUR". STARKIST REP PROMISED THAT COMPANY AND VARGAS WOULD REACH DECISION SOON ON HOW THEY ARE GOING TO PROCEED AND WOULD ADVISE DEPT. ONCE DECISION REACHED.

2. IT WOULD APPEAR TO DEPT. THAT AMICABLE SOLUTION TO

"VOYAGEUR" PROBLEM CAN BE REACHED, PARTICULAR SINCE THIS SEEMS TO BE PREFERRED ROUTE OF BOTH GNZ AND INDUSTRY REPS INVOLVED. IF CHARTER ARRANGEMENT CAN BE WORKED OUT THIS MAY BE MOST DESIRABLE OUTCOME, BUT IF NOT, AND IF GNZ WILLING TO SELL LICENSE, THAN LICENSING ROUTE MIGHT BE SIMPLE SOLUTION. USG DOES NOT OPPOSE PURCHASE OF LICENSES BY US TUNA VESSELS, EVEN THOUGH WE DO NOT RECOGNIZE COASTAL

STATE JURISDICTION OVER TUNA OUT TO 200-MILES. IT IS POSITION OF USG THAT LICENSE PURCHASES ARE STRICTLY A COMMERCIAL DECISION TO BE MADE BY VESSEL OWNERS; USG NEITHER ENCOURAGES NOR DISCOURAGES SUCH PURCHASES.

- 3. DEPT. WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING GNZ POLICY RE LICENSE PURCHASES, IN GENERAL. ARE THEY AVAILABLE FOR ANY FOREIGN TUNA VESSEL TO PURCHASE, AND IF SO, WHAT ARE COSTS AND TERMS AND CONDITIONS, OF SUCH LICENSES.
- 4. DEPT. DOES NOT WISH TO COMPLICATE ISSUE, BUT IT IS UNCLEAR AS TO WHETHER TUNA SEASON REFERRED TO REFTEL IS A SEASON ESTABLISHED BY GNZ REGULATIONS OR IS SEASON RESULTING FROM MIGRATORY HABITS OF TUNA. PLEASE ADVISE.
- 5. DEPT BELIEVES IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR EMBASSY TO PASS TO GNZ OFFICIALS INFO PARAS 1 & 2 ABOVE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

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